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Contents

| | |
|--|--------|
| A Message from the State Librarian | 2 |
| Two State Library Commissioners Reappointed | 2 |
| Commission Report: Reflections on a Campaign for a New Library | 3 |
| Introduction to Library Technology Course Offered | 3 |
| More Libraries Join the MSC | 4 |
| Trustee Workshops | 4 |
| 2003 Collection Management Honor Roll Announced | 5 |
| MSL Prepares for 2005 Legislative Session | 6 |
| Summer Institute 2004 a Success | 6 |
| Montana Represented at National TBL Conference | 7 |
| Discount UPS Rates Available Montana Libraries Represented in D.C. | 7 8 |

Date Event

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|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| July 16 | NRIS Seminar - Helena |
| August 9 | InfoTrac Training - West Glacier |
| August 10 | InfoTrac Training - Pablo |
| August 11 | InfoTrac Training - Missoula |
| August 11 | Commission Meeting - Helena |
| September 24-25 | Fall Workshop - Great Falls |

For more details:
<http://msl.state.mt.us/calendar.html>

BIG SKY LIBRARIES

Number 88

June/July, 2004

PEEL Scholarships Awarded

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

The first phase of Montana State Library's PEEL (Professional Education and Employment for Librarians) project has been completed with the awarding of seven scholarships. The PEEL Advisory Committee recommended to the State Library Commission that all seven of the final scholarship applicants receive at least partial funding to attend the graduate library school of their choice. The Commission approved this recommendation at its June 9 meeting.

The PEEL grant, funded by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) "Recruiting and Educating Librarians for the 21st Century" program, provided a total of \$120,000 in scholarships for Montana residents.

Full scholarships have been offered to Honore Bray of Hall, Marcia Lubick of Butte, and Frederick Noel of Polson. Partial scholarships, figured at 90% of the amount requested, have been offered to Kathryn Holt of Havre, Anne James of Kalispell, Judith Brown McKenna of Bozeman, and Lauren McMullen of Big Timber. Each scholarship recipient is required to begin graduate school this fall, complete the MLS degree by 2006, and then work two years in a professional level position at a Montana public, school, or tribal college library.

State Librarian, Karen Strege said, "The scholarship advisory committee was very impressed by the qualifications and enthusiasm of each of these scholarship recipients. We congratulate them and wish them well as they train for careers as professional librarians."

To learn more about the scholarship recipients, visit MSL's website at: <http://msl.state.mt.us/greatcareer>. Congratulations to all seven recipients!

The next phase of the PEEL grant will fund stipends to two libraries to assist with funding a professional level position for two years. All public libraries, public school libraries, and tribal college libraries are eligible to apply for these stipends totaling \$60,000. Application details and materials will be available in the fall.

Fall Workshop 2004

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

Montana State Library's 6th annual Fall Workshop is scheduled for September 24-25 at the Hampton Inn in Great Falls. As always, the workshop offers training on topics Montana librarians have asked for, which makes it one of our favorite events.

This year's workshop will tentatively include sessions on book mending, providing dazzling customer service, marketing electronic databases to patrons, enticing teachers to use the library's resources, exciting emergent literacy programs, fund raising schemes that work, telling a story with library statistics, using time management tools and skills, getting quality health information for patrons, and how to handle challenging legal situations (i.e. censorship, confidentiality, Patriot Act).

The Fall Workshop is open to public library trustees and to librarians from all types of libraries. There is no registration fee. Lunch is provided for all participants and there will be drawings for books and other prizes for your library both days of the workshop. Though the schedule of sessions is not quite finalized, we hope you will plan now to attend. Registration materials will be available in August.

The Fall Workshop is funded by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Montana State Library Commission. Watch wired-mt for details or contact Sue Jackson at MSL (sujackson@state.mt.us or 1-800-338-5087).



Karen Strege, Ph.D.

A Message from the State Librarian

One year ago, we created the Montana State digital Library (MSdL). Since that time, we have had many challenges and are still very much in the transition phase. As some of you may know, we have had significant staff resignations.

We were very sorry to see these fine colleagues leave. However, their resignations gave us the opportunity to look at current position descriptions to see if they could be altered to better fit the new vision for the MSdL.

If any of you are familiar with the glacial pace of State personnel work, you will not be surprised to know that we have only started to advertise one position of the three that are or will be vacant. I am optimistic that we will be able to advertise for the next two positions in the next month.

In addition, during this time, we commissioned a study by Dr. Mary Bushing of Bozeman to review the progress made in converting our Library and Information Services Department (LISD) into a library that provides most of its services through digital means.

LISD is a special library that has two primary client groups ~ state employees and the state's libraries. State employee's needs for work-related information has not changed, but they want it delivered digitally. Our other

primary client group ~ Montana's libraries ~ has decreased their use of our services as Montana librarians have access to more information through the web and through their relationships with other libraries.

Dr. Bushing concluded that we were, indeed, moving in the right direction and encouraged us to move even more rapidly to divest print materials that were not of use and not in our collection's scope. Other no-less important recommendations included developing relationships with other libraries to purchase access to the specialized resources that our clients need, focusing on creating tools and resources that distill information, and providing meaningful pathways to information provided by other agencies and governmental entities.

As you might imagine, these recommendations have prompted excited discussion among staff members as we review our resources and align them with these recommendations. There's a lot to do! Sometimes, it feels as if we are making little progress, but transitions as big as this take time ~ new staff members have to come on board, current materials must be evaluated, and current staff members, as they occasionally remind me, have plenty to do!

If I can answer any questions about MSdL, please let me know. And watch issues of this newsletter for updates.

Two State Library Commissioners Reappointed

By Anastasia Burton, MSL Communications/Marketing Manager

The Montana State Library is pleased to announce that two members of the State Library Commission have been reappointed.

Governor Judy Martz has appointed Caroline Bitz of Box Elder to a three-year term on the Commission. Caroline had previously been appointed by Governor Martz to the Commission for one year, filling the remainder of the term of former Commissioner Ralph Atchley. Caroline served as a trustee/board member of the Havre-Hill County Library from 1990 - 2000. From 1998 - 2000, she served as Chair of the Pathfinder Federation region of the Montana Federation of Libraries.

The Commissioner of Higher Education, Sheila Stearns, has reappointed the Dean of the Montana State

University Libraries, Bruce Morton, to a three-year term on the Commission. Bruce has served as Dean of Libraries at Montana State University-Bozeman since 1993. Bruce began his career in 1969 as a Russian linguist in the United States Army Security Agency.

The seven-member State Library Commission establishes policies and procedures for the Montana State Library and also gives assistance and advice to all public libraries in Montana. Members of the State Library Commission also include: Chair Al Randall, Troy; Gail Staffanson, Sidney; Toni Broadbent, Helena; and Donald Allen of Billings, who are all appointed by the governor; as well as Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Congratulations, Caroline and Bruce!

Commission Report: Reflections on a Campaign for a New Library

By Don Allen, Montana State Library Commissioner

As we find ourselves in the midst of another election year, I've been asked to share my experiences regarding our attempts not so long ago to raise support for a new library here in Billings.

In the general election of 2002, the city of Billings voted down a general obligation bond of \$12 million for a new library building. Why did the bond fail? The simple answer is that the voters did not believe a new library was required. Can they be blamed? They were receiving excellent service from the existing facility.

Simple answers may not be right. So, a look at the issues swirling about at that time will give insight into the defeat and the lessons we learned.

Remember that not all electorates are the same, and what works in one place may not work in another.

First, due to its geography and history, Billings is divided into at least three camps: The Billings Heights battle cry in the library election was that until the Heights received a swimming pool, residents wouldn't approve any new facility in any other part of town. Letters to the editor and e-mail campaigns were staged to rally support for this viewpoint. We lost in the Heights.

The Downtown has visions of a multiplex entertainment center that would help the struggling downtown become a hive of activity and prosperity. In addition, a proposal to remodel the existing library facility was being floated by opponents. Putting a bunch of money in the existing building didn't fit their plan. Downtown property owners weren't interested in a new or remodeled library which could jeopardize their dream. Their solution was to vote no and sort it out later. We lost Downtown.

The West End is the more affluent part of town. It pays the most property tax per homeowner, but generally supports bond and mill levies. We won in the West End.

The lesson: Know the components of your electorate and structure the proposal to fit the circumstances.

The city council placed the bond on the ballot with a bare majority vote. During the campaign, one council member actively campaigned against the proposal. He was promoting a remodel. Some voters decided they needed more information. The lesson: Do not proceed unless you have strong support from the elected governing body. Elected officials do represent their constituency. You may not agree with them, but they give clues as to how their constituents will likely vote.

The weekend before the vote, property tax statements were received in the mail. The lesson: Don't schedule votes to raise taxes in the November election. People are sensitive to any increase in taxes, especially at the time they receive property tax notices. In addition, raising campaign funds during a general election is difficult.

The schools in Billings were talking about infrastructure needs and new buildings in a future bond proposal which would be 10 times the amount of our request. The weekend before the election the teachers voted to strike over pay issues. Voters could see huge tax increases coming. The lesson: Events out of your control can torpedo your efforts, no matter how smart you are.

A final thought: Homeowners are being asked to pay all of the costs for local schools, infrastructure, and local government services. In the name of business development and jobs, we have gutted our system of property taxes, exempting almost everything except homes. Homeowners are not happy campers. Until we broaden the tax base, it will be difficult to pass additional tax issues.



Don Allen

Introduction to Library Technology Course Offered

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

Beginning this fall, The University of Montana - Helena College of Technology will offer a two-credit course providing an overview of library technology as a career. The course, part of HCT's Office Technology curriculum, will provide information on core values practiced by library professionals and paraprofessionals, reference resources, acquiring and processing library

materials, circulation procedures, and using automated library systems.

Cost for the course, which is scheduled Monday evenings August 23 - December 16, is \$261 (plus \$30 application fee for new students). For details, contact the HCT Admissions Office at (406) 444-6826.

More Libraries Join the MSC

By Bruce Newell, Montana Library Network Director

More libraries are joining the Montana Shared Catalog (MSC) this fall, thanks in part to Library Service and Technology Act (LSTA) funds awarded by the Montana State Library Commission. Ten Montana libraries and the BridgerNet consortium were helped with start-up costs by LSTA funds; these ten libraries total seventeen library buildings when branches and individual BridgerNet libraries are tallied.

We look forward to any Montana library wishing to join the MSC library being able to do so, providing funding is available. We hope that this LSTA-funded assistance program will be offered again next year. If your library applied, but was not funded, please apply again.

\$121,774 in LSTA funding assistance will be provided, in whole or in part, to pay for these libraries' Sirsi start-up costs:

- || Bozeman Public Library, BridgerNet
- || Belgrade Community Library, BridgerNet
- || Three Forks Community Library, BridgerNet
- || West Yellowstone Public Library, BridgerNet
- || Park High School Library
- || Clancy Community Library
- || Drummond School/Community Library
- || Twin Bridges Public Library
- || Ronan Schools Libraries (two buildings)
- || Meagher County City Library
- || Thompson-Hickman County
- || Hellgate School District #4 Libraries (three buildings)
- || Laurel Public Library

Six libraries with sufficient funds of their own to join will enroll in the MSC with those libraries above receiving LSTA assistance:

- || Madison Valley Public Library
- || Montana Legislative Research Council
- || Montana Academy Library
- || Clinton School District Library
- || Montana Bible College Library
- || Thompson Falls Schools Libraries (three buildings)

Finally, two libraries applied but were scored 'out of the money.' We'd like to fund all those who applied, but have a limited amount of funding to offer. If funds are found, one or both of the following libraries may be added to the MSC this fall:

- || Miles Community College Library
- || Big Timber Grade School Library

We owe our initial reviewers, Kathy Mora, Heidi Sue Adams, Colet Bartow, and Andrine Haas, a round of thanks. This was a huge job. And it was a tough job; we wanted to fund every library that applied, but lacked the funds, so very difficult choices had to be made. Thanks also to all the Networking Task Force members who reviewed the requests for funding.

The MSC consortium currently includes twenty-three libraries in twenty-nine buildings across Montana. The MSC runs on Sirsi's Unicorn integrated library system, presenting a public interface called iBistro <http://montanalibraries.org>. Membership in the consortia is a opportunity for Montana libraries to improve, through collaboration and cooperation, their delivery of quality library materials and services to their users.

To learn more about the MSC, contact Sarah McHugh (samchugh@state.mt.us) or Bruce Newell (bnewell@state.mt.us) at the State Library for more

Trustee Workshops

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

Two workshops for public library trustees are being planned for fall. The one-day workshops are scheduled in two locations: Missoula on Saturday, October 23 (tentative); and Billings on Saturday, November 6. All trustees and public library directors are invited to attend the most convenient workshop location.

The workshops will emphasize the role of trustees as library advocates and will introduce trustees to important advocacy and communication techniques to use when working with members of the community, city/county

officials, or state representatives. Details for the workshops will be available later in the summer and registration will begin in September.

These trustee workshops are funded by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the Montana State Library Commission. Contact Sue Jackson (sujackson@state.mt.us or 1-800-338-5087) for more information.

2003 Collection Management Honor Roll Announced

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

Each year, the Montana State Library Commission recognizes libraries dedicated to the sharing of resources through the Collection Management Honor Roll. Libraries making the Honor Roll are those that have approved and current collection management policies on file with the State Library, have at least 50% of the library's holdings on the OCLC database, and have been actively adding/deleting holdings data from the OCLC database during the past three years. Fifty-nine libraries made the most recent Honor Roll and were recognized and received certificates during the MLA Conference in Bozeman. Six of these libraries are new to the Honor Roll this year. Libraries honored for 2003 include:

Montana Collection Management Honor Roll 2003

~ ~ Academic Libraries ~ ~

Rocky Mountain College Library in Billings
Montana State University Library in Bozeman
University of Montana - Western Library in Dillon
Dawson Community College Library in Glendive
MSU College of Technology - Great Falls Library
University of Great Falls Library
Montana State University - Northern Library in
Havre
Helena College of Technology of the UM Library
Flathead Valley Community College Library in
Kalispell
University of Montana Library in Missoula - NEW
Salish-Kootenai College Library in Pablo
Fort Peck Community College Tribal Library in
Poplar

~ ~ Public Libraries ~ ~

Hearst Free Library in Anaconda
Fallon County Library in Baker
Belgrade Community Library
Belt Public Library - NEW
Carnegie Public Library in Big Timber
Parmly Billings Library in Billings
Jefferson County Library System in
Boulder/Whitehall
Bozeman Public Library
Butte-Silver Bow Public Library
Wedsworth Memorial Library in Cascade - NEW
Blaine County Library in Chinook
Bicentennial Library in Colstrip
Conrad Public Library
Glacier County Library in Cut Bank
William K. Kohrs Memorial Library in Deer Lodge

Dillon City Library
Drummond School Community Library
Ekalaka Public Library
Madison Valley Public Library in Ennis
Fairfield-Teton Public Library
Rosebud County Library in Forsyth
Glasgow City County Library
Glendive Public Library
Great Falls Public Library
Bitterroot Public Library in Hamilton
Harlem Public Library
Havre-Hill County Library
Preston Town County Library in Hot Springs
Flathead County Library in Kalispell
Lewistown Public Library
Lincoln County Public Library in Libby
Miles City Public Library
Missoula Public Library
Plains District Library
Sheridan County Library in Plentywood
Ronan City Library
Sidney Public Library
Judith Basin County Free Library in Stanford
Prairie County Library in Terry - NEW
Three Forks Community Library - NEW
Valier Public Library
West Yellowstone Public Library
Wibaux Public Library

~ ~ School Libraries ~ ~

Browning High School - NEW
Gardiner Public Schools
Dawson County High School Library in Glendive
Libby High School Library

MSL Prepares for 2005 Legislative Session

By Karen Strege, State Librarian

State agencies, the Governor's office, and legislative committees are busy preparing for the 2005 legislative session. The State Library has submitted both its budget and legislative requests to the Governor's office. The office has directed MSL to complete drafts on the revisions to the State Publications Depository laws and the Federations laws, and also asked for more information regarding the proposed changes to Public Library District law. The Governor's budget office has not yet met with MSL about its funding requests.

A committee composed of members from the Secretary of State's office, the State Law Library, the State Historical Society, the Department of Administration's Information Technology Services Division, and the State Library met during the last six months to review the State's readiness to catalog and archive publications that are only created in digital format or "born digital."

Following the leads of other states and the federal government, the committee recognized that such documents and publications are in danger of becoming lost or destroyed if preservation measures are not identified and adopted. To ensure that responsibilities for digital publications are covered in Montana statute, the committee drafted changes to the State Library's State Publication Depository laws. The consensus draft is now awaiting legal review by MSL's attorney.

The changes to federation laws have been covered in previous editions of *Big Sky Libraries*. Briefly, these

changes would allow federations to be established by the Commission and for membership and governance to be established by the by-laws adopted by Federation members. Members would also have the responsibility of appointing the Federation Coordinator from any library in the Federation.

The proposed changes in the Library District Law derived from questions received by the State Library from local libraries, trustees, and officials. These questions may drive MSL to seek clarification in the law. These questions are with the State Library's attorney, who will determine if statutory changes are required.

As many readers know, the State Library's budget was reduced by about 10% for the current biennium. The Commission has asked the Governor's office to restore the cuts made in per capita, per square mile grants to public libraries, the interlibrary loan reimbursements, and for Library Federation support.

The Commission also requested restoration of an employee in the Library Development Department, the funds in the State Library's materials budget, and funding for the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) programs. The Commission also asked that the support for the technology librarians based in Great Falls and Billings be transferred to the State's general fund, thereby allowing the current LSTA funding to be used for other important projects.

Watch for further legislative updates in future issues of this newsletter.

Summer Institute 2004 a Success

By Sue Jackson, MSL Federal Grants/Continuing Education Consultant

This year's Summer Institute brought twenty-three directors and six trustees from public libraries together for a week of training on the MSU-Bozeman campus. Sandra Nelson, a nationally known library consultant and author of four ALA-published books on planning and management, was the trainer for the week. The group spent five full days learning from Sandra and networking with each other, both in the classroom and in the dorm after classes. It was a great week!

Funding for the institute was provided by a Library Services and Technology Act grant received from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



Six public library trustees attended this year's Summer Institute. Front row: Julia Enman (Drummond), Lorraine Gallik (Anaconda), Diane Henriksen (Forsyth/Colstrip), Carol Grover (Plentywood). Back row: Lloyd Mickelson (Billings), Penny Hughes-Briant (Great Falls). Photo by Sue Jackson.

Montana Represented at National TBL Conference

By Cheryl Christopher, TBL Readers' Advisor

Last month, the South Dakota Regional Library in Rapid City hosted the 2004 Biennial National Conference of Librarians Serving Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals. MSL's Cheryl Christopher, Diane Gunderson, Carolyn Meier, and Darlene Staffeldt represented Montana.

Kurt Cylke, Director of NLS/BPH, welcomed everyone, expressing excitement about the Talking Book Libraries' (TBL) future in the digital world. "That All May Read" is the goal of NLS/BPH and all Talking Book Libraries. To achieve this goal, the overall theme of this conference stressed accessibility through technology. How to offer better service, streamline library services and space, and gain a better understanding of diverse cultures, especially Native American, were also addressed in sessions.

One keynote speaker, Peter Osborne, Head of Access and Information Operations for the Royal National Institute for the Blind, United Kingdom, discussed digital efforts in the UK and Europe. RNIB is currently working on a three-year project, "Creating a Digital Library for the 21st Century". They aim to convert 40,000 members and 10,000 books from analog to digital by March 2005. This conversion will cost \$35 million, which they've earned from charitable donations. Currently, they have switched 24,000 members and digitized 7,500 books. In other European countries, 75,000 digital talking books are already available. Digital rights management is also a critical component to protect copyrights.

Michael Moodie, Deputy Director NLS/BPH, said that NLS aims to have digital books by 2008. Software

programs, playback machines, NISO standards, duplicating and shelving costs are currently being developed or reviewed. He foresees NLS using flash memory cards for digital books.

NLS presented Central Distribution Centers as a possible option for future reduction of shelving space needs and shipping costs for all TBLs. Each TBL would house 20% of its most popular titles, while the Central Distribution Center would house the remaining 80% to duplicate on demand. Libraries from New Mexico, New York, and Texas also provided demonstrations of alternative shelving. All offered reduction in space needed to house books. In some instances, shelving and weeding times were drastically reduced.

The final conference highlight was presented by Ruth Yellowhawk, Co-Director of Indigenous Issues Forums. She addressed the subject of "Native American Service Patterns." Ruth felt it important that in our profession we reach across cultures. She asked us to find respectful and safe ways to communicate, and offered the following tips:

- □ Weigh your words before you speak. Think about what's important and how it will effect those in the future as well as the present;
- □ Listen to each other ~ not just to obtain the facts and feelings, but to understand the speaker's values;
- □ Speak from your heart;
- □ Respect one another's time and space.

Ruth closed by saying, "I wish you the best on your journey as you serve other people." Her talk reminded us that though technology is a major part of our work and this century, people are still what is most important.

Discount UPS Rates Available

By Bruce Newell, Montana Library Network Director

It pays to buy in bulk; likewise, it pays to ship in bulk. United Parcel Service (UPS) offers any publicly funded library in Montana a discounted shipping rate. It's easy to set up an account:

- 1) Call UPS at 1-800-742-5877 to set up an account.
- 2) Then, call Rita Taylor at UPS 1-800-387-8130 x51707; reference Montana State University #349.

Many libraries ship out-of-state materials using a parcel service. Their faster shipping times and ability to track shipments in transit may make the extra expense worth it (U.S. Post Office Library Mail is still usually the

lowest cost way of moving books between two libraries in two towns).

By joining this UPS group, you will be adding your library to the State of Montana Publications and Graphics UPS contract. This non-exclusive arrangement with UPS (you can use other parcel services) lets your library ship materials at a discounted group volume rate.

It works for Mary Guthmiller at MSU-Bozeman, and Cheryl Hoover at MSU-Billings. Why not give it a try at your library? For more details, contact Mary at guthmill@montana.edu or Cheryl at choover@msubillings.edu.

Montana Libraries Represented in D.C.

By Lois Fitzpatrick, Corette Library Director/Carroll College

Montana libraries were represented at the American Library Association's Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. last month. Bernadine Abbott-Hoduski represented the Montana Library Association, Caroline Bitz represented the Montana State Library Commission, and I was in attendance for the Montana State Library.

Caroline, Bernadine, and I spent Monday, May 3rd in workshops and presentations from ALA staffers on the issues that ALA had prepared for Legislative Day. The morning sessions were wonderful; however, the afternoon sessions varied depending on the presenter. Armed with materials from ALA and also materials prepared for us by the Montana State Library, we decided on which issues we would bring to our legislators the next day.

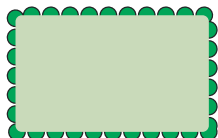
Tuesday, May 4th was the "official" ALA Legislative Day. While we did not meet with any of our elected officials, we did have excellent conversations with the

key staff members of all of our congressmen. The issues we brought forth were:

- LSTA;
- Improving Literacy through Schools;
- copyright and fair use in the electronic age;
- the need for labeling software if it is only licensed for one computer or one user;
- the bill that would establish penalties related to "administrative subpoena" powers; and
- continuing funding for LSTA.

We also thanked our legislators for supporting LSTA reauthorization last year and briefed them on what Montana libraries and librarians were doing.

I have attended four ALA Legislative Days; I believe this was one of the best visit days that I have attended. The staffers were interested in our issues, took many notes, and were very happy to meet with us and to hear our stories.



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